

hardly think I'd done that, would you ? You'd think a grown-up had done it, wouldn't you ? It's so well done, isn't it ? You come and look, Jane and Mrs. I.!" "

Two main aspects of the child's tendency to display himself with sexual intent, whether in words or deeds, are illustrated here.

(a) In the first place, the wish to display oneself is one of the component trends in the normal sexual impulse of both sexes, in children and adults alike.. In adults, if not altogether repressed, it has become more or less confined to the specifically sexual situation, although, of course, it enters into ordinary social display (e.g. dress and manners, particularly of women) as a preliminary advance towards the sexual situation. Apart from this, however, the tendency to exhibit oneself is in the normal adult more or less disguised, appearing only in indirect and sublimated forms (sport, dancing, acting, etc.).

The naive pleasure in being looked at and admired in the nude state shows itself quite strongly throughout the period of infancy. It normally meets with a certain amount of satisfaction from adults (e.g. at bath time), and only later comes under ban or discouragement. As one or two of the quoted incidents show (e.g. 29.10.24, p. 135), the quite small boy may show a natural and naive pride in his penis and his urinary potency when he is attended in the lavatory by an adult: "As on several previous occasions, George asked Mrs. I. to go to the lavatory with him, as he wanted to make water, and when doing it, he throws his head back, looks at her and laughs, showing obvious pride. To-day she suggested that he could go alone. He needs no actual help, and asks none; he only wants an audience." Later on, the open showing of the genitals normally becomes

inhibited, although
pleasure in the display of the body as a whole
remains very
strong throughout early childhood. When,
however, the
display of the nude body for direct admiration,
with a sexual
tone, is no longer socially permitted, the child
takes delight
in "showing off" his clothed body, his dress,
voice, gestures
or achievements; and this type of pleasure
persists
throughout childhood and adolescence, up to
adult life.
Nevertheless, most small children, whenever
they have a
chance of doing it in secrecy away from adult
eyes, will
display the genital parts to each other in
various types of